UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES
AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES

November 17, 1998

CERTIFIED MAIL

Robert E. M. Wurz, Ph.D.
Regulatory Affairs
Novartis
410 Swing Road
Greensboro, NC 27409

Dear Dr. Wurz:

This letter is to transmit Office of Pesticide Programs' (OPP) preliminary environmental fate and ecological effects risk assessment for the organophosphate (OP) methidathion, for which you hold a registration for technical material. We are providing you with a 15-day period to identify and comment on errors only. Your comments must be received within 15 days of receipt of this letter. The Agency will review and evaluate your comments on errors upon receipt. On or about January 4, 1999, the preliminary risk assessment, your comments and the Agency's review and discussion of your comments will be placed into OPP's Public Docket. The docket will be opened for public comment for 60 days from the date of publication of a Notice of Data Availability in the *Federal Register*. Additionally, the preliminary risk assessment will be placed on the internet at the same time. This process is part of the Agency's efforts to involve the public in the implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 and serves as an interim measure to improve the transparency of the reregistration and tolerance reassessment processes.

During this 15-day comment period, the Agency asks for comments on errors, confidential business information (CBI), and planned data. The Agency will respond only to errors which do not pertain to matters of policy, interpretation, or applicability of data. Errors include, but are not limited to, mathematical, computational, typographic, or other similar errors. In the process of reviewing the Agency's preliminary risk assessment, we ask that you inform us in writing of any claims of CBI contained in this assessment. If we do not receive notification in writing of any such claims within 15 days, the Agency will assume that the document is free of CBI. Also, we request that you inform the Agency of any pertinent, on-going or planned studies, or other sources of information on methidathion, and your timetable for completing and submitting such data and information to the Agency. This will enable the Agency to plan better for refining the risk assessment and completing the reregistration and tolerance reassessment.

If during this 15-day period, you submit comments other than on errors, you should clearly indicate that they are submitted in advance for the 60-day public comment period. You should provide a brief summary of the comments and refer to an attachment which provides a more in-depth discussion.

Please mail your response, any claims of CBI and other information about methidathion to Michael Goodis, Chemcial Review Manager (CRM). In addition, provide the CRM your response and any supporting material in both hard copy and electronic form. If you have any questions, please contact him at (703) 308-8157.

Sincerely,

Kathy S. Monk, Chief
Reregistration Branch II
Special Review and
Reregistration Division

Attachment